The Cradle of the Sea

Chapter 18

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Chapter 18 - The Captain's Decision

SFX: SPLASH, BOOM

WE'VE PASSED FASTNET LIGHTHOUSE AND HAVE REACHED 9 KNOTS.

MOVE THE ENGINE TO STANDBY. WE'LL SAIL FOR A WHILE NOW.

SFX: CLANG X4

HEY!

ZZZZZ...

GOOD WORK.

カチャ

カチャ

SFX: CLANK X2

TODAY WILL BE A REST DAY. EVERYONE NOT ON WATCH CAN RELAX.

YEAH!

Finally!

Woo hoo!

...

LET'S GO.

FWIP

SFX: CLOMP X4

バタ

バタ

!

Shh!

YOU'RE GOING TOO, HUH?

NEAL!

I'M GRATEFUL FOR YOUR HELP.

AND SO? WILL THIS SHIP CONTINUE TO CARRY ME?

MY, HOW STRICT.

Ha ha

MAYBE WE'LL HAVE TO PUT YOU OVER-BOARD.

THAT DEPENDS ON YOU.

AND... THIS IS JUST A SHIP?

INDEED.

I INTEND TO REBUILD A SHIP CALLED CRADLE.

WHAT IS YOUR OBJECTIVE?

ALLOW ME TO REPHRASE.

IS THE NAVY TRULY WILLING TO EXPEND THAT MUCH MANPOWER FOR A MERE SHIP?

IT'S THE STRONGEST.

IT'S AN IRON SHIP.

THE CRADLE IS AN IRON SHIP, POWERED BY AN INTERNAL COMBUSTION ENGINE.

WHAT ON EARTH?!

SOMETHING AS AMAZING AS THIS CAN'T BE FOUND ANYWHERE THE WORLD OVER.

YOU DON'T THINK IT COULD FLOAT? THAT'S WHAT THE ENGINE IS FOR.

IRON...? THAT'S RIDICULOUS.

IT WAS MY SOPHIA'S DYING WISH.

THAT'S WHAT THE NAVY WANTS.

BUT I CAN'T ACCEPT IT.

SOPHIA... THAT'S WHO LOUIS TALKED ABOUT.

OUR COUNTRY'S IMPERIALISM HAS BROUGHT MANY OTHER COUNTRIES UNDER OUR RULE. DON'T YOU THINK WE NEED A STRONG MILITARY TO PROTECT THAT?

YOU'RE SAYING YOU DON'T WANT THE MILITARY TO USE THIS TECHNOLOGY?

I'M NOT PARTICULARLY AVERSE TO DEFENDING OUR COUNTRY.

FFF...

Ha ha!

ARE YOU REALLY THAT NAIVE?

DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH!

HAVE YOU HONESTLY NEVER ASKED YOURSELF THAT QUESTION?

BUT DON'T YOU THINK THERE ARE THOSE WHO WOULD TAKE THAT POWER AND MISUSE IT FOR THEIR OWN PURPOSES?

IF YOU COME WITH ME, WE MAY FIND THE TRUTH OF THAT,

FOR EXAMPLE, AFTER WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR SON...?

ALONG WITH THE CRADLE.

All for me beer and tobacco ~♪

And it's all for me grog,
me jolly, jolly grog!

Daily 23

Well I spent all me tin
on the lassies drinking gin

Cook

Across the western
ocean I must wander~♪

WON'T YOU TAKE ME ALONG? FORMER NAVY WARRANT OFFICER JOHN HARRISON.

SFX: WHOOOOOSH, CHATTER X2

SFX: CLICK CHATTER X2

WHAT DOES IT HAVE TO DO WITH THE CRADLE?

WHY DOES THE DUKE KNOW ABOUT RYAN?

HEY... WHAT DID HE MEAN?

NEAL, WAIT!

EXPLAIN!

SFX: GRAB

RYAN... WAS THE CAPTAIN'S SON... AND MY CLOSE FRIEND.

WHO'S THAT?

RYAN?

TREMBLE

THAT'S FAR ENOUGH!

AH!

SFX: WHAM, THUD

SFX: CLANG X3, CHATTER X3

THE RUMORS SAY HE SLACKED OFF DURING NAVAL CADET TRAINING, BUT HE HASN'T BEEN THROWN OFF THE BOAT.

HE IS, AT THAT.

MY, THAT CERTAINLY IS AN UNUSUAL SON YOU HAVE, BIZET.

MAN! YOU'RE AWESOME, NEAL!

Heh heh!

HE'S SURE IN PRETTY HIGH SPIRITS JUST BECAUSE HIS DAD CAME!

YOU DID WELL, NEAL.

MAKING FUN OF ME, HUH? THAT'S ALL THEY EVER DO.

Let's go!

SFX: BU-BUMP

B, BIG BROTHER... NEXT TIME LET'S...!

YOU'RE NAIVE. BE CAREFUL.

YES!

SEE THAT YOU IMPROVE IN AREAS OTHER THAN SWORD-PLAY.

AWESOME!

HUH?

EVERY DAY WAS FILLED WITH STRESS AND PRESSURE...

YOU! YOU'RE REALLY AWESOME WITH A SWORD!

I'M RYAN HARRISON.

NICE TO MEETCHA!

HE'S SO LOUD...

SFX: SHAKE X2

HE WAS A WEIRD GUY. VERY OPEN-HEARTED.

SO, NEAL, THAT SUPER FAMOUS JOHN BIZET GUY IS YOUR BROTHER?

That means you're from the famous Bizet family!

YEAH... MORE OR LESS.

HUH? WHAT DID YOU SAY?

NOTHING!

SFX: PEEK

SO THAT'S WHY YOU'RE SO GOOD WITH A SWORD!

MY BROTHER'S GOOD AT EVERY-THING. I... SWORDS ...

HMM... I'M JUST A COMMONER. IT'D BE NICE TO REACH WARRANT OFFICER LIKE MY DAD.

YOU MUST HAVE SOME MOTIVATION! LIKE YOU WANT TO CLIMB THE CHAIN OF COMMAND OR SOMETHING.

I JUST WANT TO BE ABLE TO LIVE IN A WAY I THINK IS CORRECT.

OTHER THAN THAT...

HE GAVE IT UP SO EASILY...

TAP

FROM THAT TIME ON, WE WERE INSEPERABLE ABOARD THE TRAINING VESSEL...

YOU KNOW. A SIMPLE LIFE.

WHOOOO SNIFFLE

SNIFFLE

SNIFFLE

It's cold...

Huh?!

Heh heh!

SFX: WHAM

SFX: WHACK, BAM, SLAM

SFX: WHOOO, CREAK X2, SPLASH

SFX: STOMP X2

SORRY!

SFX: WHAM, CLANG

You wish!

Seems like I'm gonna pass the officer exam before you!

HE'S DEAD?!

BUT THEN...

HE SHOULDN'T HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN ANY KIND OF BATTLE!

I DON'T ENTIRELY UNDERSTAND IT EITHER. BUT YOU NEED TO GO TAKE YOUR EXAM.

WHY... HE WASN'T EVEN AN OFFICER YET!

I KEPT SEARCHING, BUT NEVER FOUND SO MUCH AS A SCRAP OF INFORMA-TION.

NOBODY KNEW A THING ABOUT THE DAY HE DIED.

AND AS WE KEPT LOOKING, BOTH THE CAPTAIN AND I HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO RESIGN.

SFX: GRAB

TELL ME WHY! THERE HAD TO HAVE BEEN SOME REASON!

IT WAS... AN ORDER FROM ABOVE.

IF YOU KNOW *ANYTHING* ABOUT HIM, TELL ME.

I...

ALL HANDS ON DECK!

EVERYONE STAY AS YOU ARE AND LISTEN UP.

THE DUKE?!

SFX: MURMUR

RUSTLE

FROM THIS POINT ON, THIS SHIP WILL BE TRAVELING WITH THIS PERSON ON BOARD AS OUR ALLY.

WE'D BE BETTER OFF STOPPING. I HAVE A WIFE AND KIDS!

I THOUGHT I'D FINALLY FOUND A GOOD SHIP, TOO!

DID HE SAY THE DUKE WAS OUR ALLY? WON'T WE BE ATTACKED BY THE NAVY?

BUT THE SAILORS WILL NEVER UNDER-STAND THIS...

CAPTAIN... HE REALLY ...

SFX: MURMUR X3

CREAK

THEREFORE, I'LL BE INCREAS-ING THE CONTRACT OF EVERYONE ON BOARD TEN TIMES OVER.

I UNDERSTAND YOUR UNEASE, EVERYONE. THIS SHIP'S VOYAGE IS MUCH MORE DANGEROUS THAN IT WAS WHEN WE SET OUT.

MUST BE THE DUKE.

THAT'S AMAZING. WHO HAS THAT KIND OF MONEY?

TEN TIMES?!

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SFX: STARE

AND I HAVE ONE FINAL THING TO SAY.

I WANT THIS DECISION TO BE SHARED BY EVERYONE ABOARD THE SHIP.

IF ANYONE WANTS TO LEAVE,

THEY'LL BE GRANTED SPECIAL PERMISSION TO DISEMBARK AT THE NEXT PORT.

THINK WELL ABOUT WHAT YOU WANT TO DO.

I WANT YOU TO MAKE YOUR DECISIONS BY THEN.

England. Navy Shipyards at Chatham.

SFX: HONK X5 CLA-CLANG, CLANG, CHUG X3

CRACK

SFX: WHAM

SFX: FWOOSH

SFX: MURMUR X2

SFX: SLAM

CREAK

THIS NEW "NAVAL RAM" WILL PROVE TO BE VERY EFFECTIVE INDEED.

CLANK

IMPRESSIVE POWER.

MAYBE EVEN MORE SO THAN THE CENTRAL GUN TURRET.

STRUCK BY THIS, EVEN AN ARMOURED SHIP WOULD SINK TO THE BOTTOM OF THE OCEAN.

SFX: FSSSSSH

THERE'S STILL THE POSSIBILITY IT WILL SELF-DESTRUCT AFTER THE FIRST SHOT, IS THERE NOT?

WE ENGINEERS HAVE ONLY TESTED THAT ON PAPIER-MACHE MODEL BOATS.

OF COURSE! WE ENGINEERS WOULD ALSO LOVE NOTHING MORE THAN GOING STRAIGHT TO PRODUCTION, BUT WE NEED TO TEST THE DESIGN SPECIFICATIONS.

SO THAT REALLY IS NECESSARY?

WE ONLY INTEND TO ADVANCE PEACE-

CALM DOWN, PLEASE.

WELL, ALTHOUGH IN THIS CASE IT SEEMS LIKE THE SHIPBUILDING TECHNICIANS YOU'VE CAPTURED HAVE ALL RUN OFF SOME-WHERE...

SILENCE!

NOISE AND RUMORS WILL NOT HELP US COMPLETE THIS WEAPON TO DEFEND OUR COUNTRY.

SFX: CLANG X9, BANK, SAW X4, WHAAAAM, BAM, TAP X6, CLAAANG, FSSSSH

WE'VE SEARCHED THE DUKE'S LUGGAGE, BUT THERE WAS NO SIGN OF THE SPECIFICATIONS.

DUKE HEARTLAND ESCAPED IN IRELAND.

!

PARDON THE INTERRUPTION!

I'VE RECEIVED A REPORT FROM LIEUTENANT GILLIAN SHEPHERD.

CALM DOWN! IT HASN'T HAPPENED YET.

THIS CAN ONLY BE SEEN AS A GRAVE THREAT TO OUR NATION.

WHAT ARE WE TO DO IF THE DUKE MAKES OFF WITH THIS TECHNOLOGY?

THE MERCHANT SHIP THE DUKE WAS ON... IT ESCAPED DUE TO AN ABNORMALLY HIGH AMOUNT OF HORSEPOWER.

IS THERE ANY OTHER NEWS?

DON'T
LL ME
THE

SILENCE.

MURMUR

HMM...

MURMUR

WHAT COULD THIS MEAN?

SIR ADMIRAL...

STEP

GATHER ALL YOUR ENGINEERS, NO MATTER WHERE THEY'VE RUN OFF TO.

WE'LL HAVE GOOD NEWS FOR YOU SOON, FACTORY MANAGER.

I'LL COMMAND GILLIAN TO TAKE THAT MERCHANT SHIP.